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NIDN-10310

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: J. Ostensen, et al. Group Art Unit: To be assigned  
Serial Number: To be assigned Examiner: To be assigned  
Filing Date: December 5, 2001  
Title: Improvements In or Relating to Contrast Agents

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the prosecution of the captioned application, which is a continuation of United States patent application number 09/291,277 filed April 14, 1999, which is a continuation of international patent application number PCT/GB97/02898 filed October 21, 1997. This application also claims priority to application number 9621884.7 filed October 21, 1996 in Great Britain and application number 9708239.0 filed April 23, 1997 in Great Britain. Additionally, this application claims the benefit of United States provisional application number 60/044,452 filed April 29, 1997.